

GOALS, POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES - RECREATION

GOALS

1. A wide variety of high quality recreational, cultural and historical resources to satisfy the needs of residents of the borough, the Anchorage metropolitan area and other visitors.
 - a. Protection, enhancement and promotion of the most unique and significant natural, cultural, and recreational values:
 - 1) to maintain the natural character of certain large areas to preserve opportunities for a wilderness experience
 - 2) to protect important historic and recreation trails
 - 3) to protect and enhance the following important recreation opportunities: fishing, hunting (especially moose and waterfowl), hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, wildlife photography, dog sledding, climbing, boating and birdwatching
 - 4) to preserve in a natural state important streams suitable for rafting, kayaking, and other forms of boating.
 - 5) to protect important vistas and geologic features and fragile or unique ecosystems
 - 6) to preserve public waterfront land
 - 7) to protect important historic and cultural resources
 - 8) to promote public awareness of existing recreation opportunities
 - b. Provision of adequate recreation opportunities to satisfy anticipated needs:
 - 1) to provide a land base to address the following critical needs (needs for which demand greatly exceeds supply): developed camping units, boat launches, an alpine skiing area, stream fishing, access to moose and waterfowl hunting areas
 - 2) to provide a land base to address the following important needs (needs for which demand exceeds supply): picnicking, cross-country skiing, walking/running/cycling, canoeing, swimming and lake fishing

- 3) to provide a land base to address the following notable needs (needs for which demand is expected to exceed supply in the near future): dog mushing, hiking and snowmobiling
- c. Recreation activities which are accessible to Anchorage residents and communities within the sub-basin and which complement local planning efforts:
 - 1) to establish a community recreation land trust for the benefit of local recreation program development. This land trust will include state lands to be transferred to local government for recreation management
 - 2) to provide for a wide variety of recreational opportunities within a weekend's drive of Anchorage and opportunities close to existing communities in the basin
 - 3) to protect and enhance fly-in recreation opportunities within an hour's flight of Anchorage
- d. Maximum use of recreation sites while maintaining high quality recreation experiences:
 - 1) to provide support facilities at high use areas--in particular, road accessible salmon streams
 - 2) to upgrade and enhance existing campground facilities to accommodate needs
 - 3) to promote safety and environmental protection through proper land management and facility development
 - 4) to develop an integrated system of lake access areas for fishing, boating and related activities
- e. Incorporation of educational opportunities in recreation experiences:
 - to establish areas with representative or unique ecosystems for scientific research, education, and enjoyment
2. Integration of recreational and non-recreational land uses where compatible.
3. An improved and diversified economic condition for the area's residents and the state:
 - to provide a land base for commercial recreation operations and tourism

IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

1. Trails

See Policies and Management Guidelines; Recreation and Historic Trails, this chapter.

2. Public Access

See Policies and Management Guidelines; Public Access, this chapter.

3. Region-wide and Community Recreation Facilities

- a. It is the state's proper role to retain and develop state-owned recreation areas or properties of region-wide or state-wide significance such as the Hatcher Pass Management Unit and the Little Susitna Corridor.
- b. It is the borough's proper role to take the lead in meeting the need for recreation facilities within and adjacent to existing communities designed to serve the needs of those communities.
- c. In recognition of the borough's role in meeting community recreation needs, the state should establish a community recreation land trust for eventual transfer of certain state recreation sites near existing communities to borough ownership. The selection of these sites shall be agreed to by the borough and the state and shall be contingent on the borough's commitment to develop and maintain the recreation values of the sites.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1. River and Stream Buffers

See Policies and Management Guidelines, River and Stream Corridors, this chapter.

2. Lakes

- a. Approximately 25% of state-owned waterfront to a landward distance of approximately 500 feet, all islands, and all inlets and outlets of lakes capable of sustaining year-round natural or stocked game fish species shall remain in public ownership for habitat protection and public recreation. Adequate public access to these lakes shall also remain in public ownership. The amount of public ownership may vary on a site specific basis, but at a minimum, some portion of these

lakes shall remain public. The size of the public reservation shall be appropriate to its expected long range recreational use.

On borough land, all lakes larger than 20 acres with the capability of sustaining year-round natural or stocked game fish species should have some amount of waterfront held in public ownership. The exact amount should be determined on a case by case basis and should be appropriate to the lake's expected long range recreational use.

- b. Wherever a lake-side recreation site has been identified, a minimum of 40 contiguous acres is desirable to be used for recreational facility development and related purposes.

Adjacent uses should be encouraged which do not detract from recreational enjoyment of the site.

3. Trails

See Policies and Management Guidelines, Recreation and Historic Trails, this chapter.